

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Monograph of the Lacertidæ. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S. Vol. II. British Museum (Natural History), 1921. Pp. viii + 451. Price £3.

VOLUME I. of this Monograph, published in 1920, dealt with *Nucras*, *Lacerta*, and *Algiroides*; Volume II. deals with the remaining nineteen genera—*Philochoertus* to *Holaspis*. Appended is a complete Catalogue of the specimens in the British Museum Collection, comprising over 5000, referable to about 200 species and varieties. In the tabulations of dimensions and scale-formulæ which are given throughout the work numbers of other specimens are also included, each marked with a symbol denoting the museum in which it is to be found; so that in future the student will be able to find any one individual for reference from among this vast material. In this it is an infinitely more comprehensive work than anything of its kind hitherto published, and its value can hardly be overrated. The general arrangement is clear and convenient. From the systematic and philosophic standpoints it constitutes a magnificent piece of work, for it gives one a sound orientation of this difficult group of lizards, so baffling to the novice. So many authors present their subject to the reader in a biased form, suppressing evidence or hypotheses which do not corroborate their own views. Dr. Boulenger never misleads in this way. Moot points are brought forward as such and fully discussed. In dealing with the diphyletic origin of *Scaptira*, for instance, the natural relationships of the Asiatic and South African species are clearly expressed, and his reasons for maintaining them as distinct genera given; at the same time he discusses the principle involved, and adds:—"If, however, objection should be felt to the course here followed, I would suggest uniting the two genera into one, keeping up the different sections as here defined, rather than a further multiplication of the genera" (p. 348).

Herpetologists all over the world will sincerely regret that the 'Monograph of the Lacertidæ' is probably the final work on Zoology from the pen of Dr. Boulenger. In all he has published 29 complete volumes and 875 papers; there is, however, still much to be done, and no one will fill the gap which he has left by his retirement.

The Complete Nature Book, a complete Handbook and Guide to British Nature Study, embracing the Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fish, Insects, Plants, etc., in the United Kingdom. By S. N. SEDGWICK. Pp. x and 495, pls. 40 (some coloured), and numerous text-figures. T. C. and E. C. Jack, Ltd., London and Edinburgh. Price 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book, as the Author states in the Preface, is very largely a compilation, and this must necessarily be the case in a work dealing with such a variety of subjects. In Part I., the "Animal World,"